Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1.-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) An image acquisition module for monitoring applications of the external surroundings of a vehicle, comprising:

a housing with an interior protected against at least moisture and a window hermetically closed by a transparent element;

a electronic circuit accommodated in said housing and associated with connection means with the exterior, for supply and/or bidirectional signal exchange;

an image detector connected to said electronic circuit and opposed to said window;

a support attached to the housing to carry an optic system between said image detector and said window; and

positioning means and releasable fixation means to enable at least the ~~focussing~~focusing of said optic system and the releasable fixation of the module to an external structure of a vehicle,

wherein said window is associated with at least one protection device protecting it from external agents and from a luminous incidence, providing an appropriate light pass through said transparent element, said protection device comprising a visor element disposed around at least a part of said window and a car gutter element disposed around at least another part of said window.

42-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 41, wherein said window or said support are, furthermore, associated with conditioning means of the light pass conditions through said transparent element.

45. (Currently Amended) The module according to claim 44, wherein said conditioning means ~~comprise~~ comprises an electric heater device associated with said transparent

element and/or with said optical system and being supplied from said connection means with the exterior.

46-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The module according to ~~claim 43~~claim 41, wherein said visor and car gutter elements are part of the housing itself.

49. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 41, wherein said connection means with the exterior, for the supply and/or for bidirectional signal exchange, are linked to an exterior multiple connector.

50. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 49, wherein said exterior multiple connector is incorporated into the housing.

51. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 49, wherein said exterior multiple connector is disposed at the end of a multicore wiring.

52. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 51, wherein said multicore wiring has the form of a flat tape.

53. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 51, wherein said multicore wiring is a printed flexible circuit.

54. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 41, wherein said connection means with the exterior, for the supply and/or the bidirectional signal exchange, are materialized in the form of an emitter/receptor of electromagnetic waves.

55. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 54, wherein said emitter/receptor of electromagnetic waves is a radio signal emitter/receptor.

56. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 54, wherein said emitter/receptor of electromagnetic waves is an infra-red ray signal emitter/receptor.

57. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 41, wherein said image detector is part of an integrated circuit.

58. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 57, wherein said integrated circuit is an A.S.I.C.

59-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) An image acquisition module for monitoring applications of the external surroundings of a vehicle, comprising: ~~The module according to claim 42,~~

a housing with an interior protected against at least moisture and a window hermetically closed by a transparent element;

a electronic circuit accommodated in said housing and associated with connection means with the exterior, for supply and/or bidirectional signal exchange;

an image detector connected to said electronic circuit and opposed to said window;

a support attached to the housing to carry an optic system between said image detector and said window; and

positioning means and releasable fixation means to enable at least the focussing of said optic system and the releasable fixation of the module to an external structure of a vehicle,

wherein said window is associated with at least one protection device protecting it from external agents and from a luminous incidence, providing an appropriate light pass through said transparent element, said protection device comprising a visor element disposed around at least a part of said window, and

wherein said visor element is in a small angle inclined outwards and upwards with respect to a central vision line of the image detector.

64. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 63, wherein said small angle is approximately in an interval between 0 and 15°.

65. (Currently Amended) The module according to ~~claim 43~~claim 41, wherein said car gutter is in a certain angle inclined outwards and downwards with respect to a central vision line of the image detector.

66. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 65, wherein said angle is approximately in the interval between 45° and 90°.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) The module according to claim 41, wherein said housing ~~comprising~~ comprises two concave halves with respective perimetral borders opposed to each other and back-to-back throughout a joint.

69-84. (Cancelled)

85. (New) Image acquisition module for monitoring applications of the external surroundings of a vehicle, comprising:

a housing with an interior protected against at least moisture and a window hermetically closed by a transparent element;

an electronic circuit accommodated in said housing and associated with connection means with the exterior, for supply and/or bidirectional signal exchange;

an image detector connected to said electronic circuit and opposed to said window;

a support attached to the housing to carry an optical system between said image detector and said window;

positioning means and releasable fixation means to enable at least the centering of said optical system and the releasable fixation of the module to an external structure of a vehicle; and

at least one protection device associated with said window to protect the window from external agents and from a luminous incidence, providing a appropriate light pass through said transparent element, said protection device comprising at least a visor element arranged around at least a part of said window and a gutter element arranged around at least another part of said window,

wherein:

a mounting adapter having an opening at a predetermined position with respect to the window is fixed to the housing,

said visor element and said gutter element are integrated to the mounting adapter and located around said opening,

said mounting adapter includes centering means and first releasable fixation means cooperating with said positioning means and said releasable fixation means of the housing for fixing the mounting adapter to the housing, and

the mounting adapter is provided with second releasable fixation means for releasably fixing the mounting adapter to said external structure of a vehicle.

86. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said releasable fixation means between the mounting adapter and the housing comprises at least a pair of elastic arms extending from the mounting adapter laterally embracing the housing, said elastic arms having end projections attaching by snap-fit on shoulders existing in the housing.

87. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said releasable fixation means between the mounting adapter and the housing comprises a tubular configuration formed in the mounting adapter externally plug connected around said support for the optical system.

88. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said second releasable fixation means for the fixation of the mounting adapter to the exterior structure of a vehicle is selected from the group consisting of snap-fitting elastic elements, form-fitting fixation elements and screws.

89. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said exterior structure of a vehicle is an exterior rear view mirror housing of a vehicle.

90. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said visor element is in a small angle inclined outwards and upwards with respect to a central vision line of the image detector, said small angle being approximately within an interval from 0 to 15 degrees.

91. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said gutter is in a certain angle inclined outwards and downwards in respect of a central vision line of the image detector, said certain angle being approximately within an interval from 45 to 90 degrees.

92. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein the window is arranged in a plane and has a window diameter, and a distance between said plane and zones of the visor and/or gutter elements most protruding from said plane is not less than said window diameter.

93. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said window or said support are, furthermore, associated with conditioning means for the light pass conditions through said transparent element, said conditioning means comprising an electric heater device associated with said transparent element and/or with said optical system and being supplied from said connection means with the exterior.

94. (New) Module, according to claim 85, wherein said housing comprises two concave halves with respective perimetral edges opposed to each other and back-to-back throughout a joint.

95. (New) Module, according to claim 94, wherein said concave halves are provided with respective continuous flanges externally extending adjacent to said perimetral edges, and an annular elastic sealing element is arranged embracing both continuous flanges and covering said joint.

96. (New) Module, according to claim 95, wherein in a part of at least one of said perimetral edges there is a recess to provide an exit for a multicore wiring.

97. (New) Module, according to claim 96, wherein said annular elastic sealing element comprises a longitudinal slit adjacent to said exit for said multicore wiring, through which slit the multicore wiring passes.

98. (New) Module, according to claim 94, wherein said optical system is integrated in a tubular body comprising an external flange and an outer screw threaded portion, and said support to carry the optical system comprises a tubular-shaped appendix protruding from one of said two concave halves of the housing, said tubular-shaped appendix including an inner screw thread to which said outer screw threaded portion of the optical system is screw coupled.

99. (New) Module, according to claim 98, wherein at least one elastic sealing element is included, compressed between said external flange of the optical system body and one end of said tubular-shaped appendix.

100. (New) Module, according to claim 99, wherein said transparent element is disposed between one end of the optical system and an inner bottom wall of a cover externally coupled to said tubular-shaped appendix, said window consisting of an opening in said inner bottom wall of said cover.

101. (New) Module, according to claim 100, wherein an electrical heater is included, comprising at least one resistance in the form of a printed ring or deposited in at least one face of a peripheral area of the transparent element and connected to current supply.

102. (New) Module, according to claim 100, wherein said tubular-shaped appendix is cylindrical and externally screw threaded, and the cover is cylindrical and internally screw threaded in order to screw couple the tubular-shaped appendix.

103. (New) Module, according to claim 102, wherein said tubular-shaped appendix includes an axial slot in the external screw thread, for, at least, the pass of a current supply cable.

104. (New) Module, according to claim 103, wherein said tubular-shaped appendix is integral with one of said concave halves of the housing, which are obtained by injection moulding of a high-coefficient heat conductivity material.

105. (New) Module, according to claim 100, wherein said cover is obtained by injection moulding of a high-coefficient heat conductivity material.